

WHAT IS CLAIMED | IS:

1. A clipper assembly for clipping the claw nail of an animal, said assembly comprising:

a set of opposed cutting edges;

a mechanism for selectively biasing said cutting edges toward each other; and

a light source adjacent one of said cutting edges, wherein said light source is oriented to shine light through a claw nail placed between said cutting edges.

2. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said light source emits red light.

3. The assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said mechanism is a manually operated hand tool.

4. The assembly according to Claim 3, further including batteries within said hand tool for powering said light source.

5. The assembly according to Claim 3, wherein said hand tool includes opposing handle elements, wherein said cutting edges are biased toward each other when said opposing handle elements are biased toward each other.

6. The assembly according to Claim 5, further including a switch for automatically activating said light source when said opposing handle elements are biased toward each other.

7. The assembly according to Claim 1, further including a magnifying lens for observing a claw nail placed between said cutting edges.

8. A method of clipping a claw nail of an animal, comprising the steps of:

providing a light source;

shining light from said light source through the claw nail to make positions of blood vessels within the claw nail observable; and

clipping at least one portion of the claw nail not containing a blood vessel.

9. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of providing a light source includes providing a clipper having cutting edges, wherein said light source is contained within said clipper adjacent said cutting edges.

10. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said step of providing a light source includes providing a light source that produces red light.

11. A method of determining the position of a blood vessel in the claw nail of an animal so that the claw nail can be safely clipped, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a light source; and
positioning the claw nail adjacent said light source, wherein said light source shines light through the claw nail and exposes a position of a blood vessel within the claw nail.

12. The method according to Claim 11, further including the step of clipping the claw nail while said light source shines light through the claw nail.

13. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said light source shines red light.

14. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said step of providing a light source includes providing a clipper assembly having cutting edges, wherein said light source is contained within said clipper adjacent said cutting edges.